

## There's money for county, too

Tuesday, December 21, 2004 12:52 PM

There is money for schools, libraries, harbors and health-care facilities. There's also \$40 million statewide to provide berthing facilities for the Hawaii Superferry, which is designed to provide a cheaper way to travel interisland.

Kawamura, who was budget director under Lingle when she was mayor of Maui County, pointed to several other goodies in the governor's holiday basket.

They include:

- \$5.5 million in the governor's budget to complete the continuing expansion of the Makawao Library. Kawamura said that will pay for land acquisition in the rear of the site as well as other planned improvements.

- A line item providing \$2.75 million – funneled through the state Department of Agriculture – to continue improvements to the Molokai Irrigation System for the benefit of farmers, Kawamura said.

- \$10 million allocated to continue the widening of Honoapiilani Highway from two lanes to four from Puamana just south of Lahaina town to the county park at Papalaua.

- Another \$10 million for security improvements at Kahului Airport, money that comes from the federal government.

- \$3.3 million in general obligation bonds for small boat harbors in the county. That money will be used to leverage another \$11.5 million in federal funds that are available to the state.

“I keep telling them that's our highway,” Kawamura said of the need to keep the boats moving, particularly between Maui, Molokai and Lanai. A \$40 ferry fare beats a \$180 plane fare hands-down, she said.

Maui County will also benefit from the more than \$100 million available for school improvements, Kawamura said, mostly for fixing existing facilities.

---

Copyright © 2004 The Maui News.